

REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections to this application are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks which place the application in condition for allowance. The Examiner and her supervisor are thanked for the courtesies extended during the September 10, 2002 telephone conference.

I. STATUS OF CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 1-10 are pending. Claim 1 was amended, and new claims 9 and 10 added, without prejudice.

No new matter is added.

It is submitted that these claims are patentably distinct from the prior art, and that these claims are in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112. The amendments and additions to the claims, and the remarks made herein, are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §§ 101, 102, 103 or 112; but rather the amendments, additions and remarks are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled. Support for the amended recitations in the claims, and for the new claims, is found throughout the specification.

II. 35 U.S.C. §102 REJECTIONS

Claims 1-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,538,736 to Hoffman et al. The rejection is traversed.

The amendment to claim 1, and the addition of claims 9 and 10, along the lines suggested by the Examiner and her supervisor during the September 10, 2002 telephonic interview, for

which both the Examiner and her supervisor are again thanked for the courtesies extended thereat, render the rejection moot.

Consequently, reconsideration and withdrawal of the Section 102 rejection are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

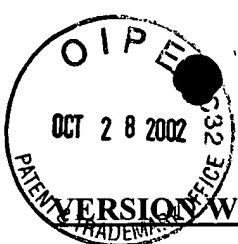
By this submission, the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application and the Request for Continued Examination, and prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowance are all earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

1. (Amended Twice) A flat self-adhering plaster having a multi-layer construction and reduced cold flow, [comprising] comprised of a layer of adhesive which attaches to skin having a core of adhesive which is [a flowable adhesive] rendered flowable by a plasticizing additive, and a ring of adhesive [being an adhesive] free of a plasticizing additive [having reduced flowability to that of the core, and said ring surrounding said core] wherein said ring has a reduced flowability to that of said core, and wherein said ring surrounds said core.